

REMARKS

The invention as now claimed in the independent claims 38, 47 and 56 includes

- a) the piston rods being secured to a support platform,
- b) a second means of support provided and which includes an aperture through which the recoil buffer cylinders extend and are supported, and
- c) the piston and piston rod assemblies providing a first means of support to the recoil buffering cylinders from the support platform, as in the elected claims.

Prior publications such as US2413703, US4790357, DE300702 all include piston rods which move in unison with the barrel. As one advantage in reducing the recoil action is gained by providing a recoil mass of a large weight. A configuration where the cylinders (which are able to be heavier than piston rods) move with the barrel will increase the recoil mass and thereby reduce the recoil velocity of the recoiling mass.

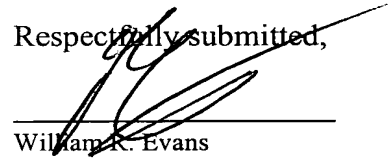
Furthermore, US2790357 and US2413703 provide a guiding of the recoil mass by the cylindrical relationship between the barrel and a cylindrical sleeve provided about the barrel. A significant disadvantage that this has relates to the fact that the barrel is subjected to significant heat as a result of the firing of a projectile. A sleeve provided around the barrel will reduce the ability for such heat to be dissipated. Along with heat, an expansion of the barrel can also occur. Such an expansion can lead to the jamming of the barrel with its guide sleeve. The designs of US2790357 and US2413703 may hence be presented with having to overcome such difficulties. With an almost completely exposed barrel which the configuration of the present invention provides, such heating problems can be avoided.

US410968 discloses a cylinder which is engaged to a barrel to form part of the recoiling mass, the way in which the recoiling mass is mounted from the support platform is significantly different (as mentioned above) to the manner in which the invention of the present invention is now claimed.

Accordingly we believe that the independent claims now differentiate the claimed invention from the prior publications that have been cited.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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